United Nations E/CN.6/2017/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 December 2016

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-first session
13-24 March 2017
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work*

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Priority theme: women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;
      (ii) Review theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: empowerment of indigenous women;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session.

* The proposed organization of work will be issued as E/CN.6/2017/1/Add.1.

16-22326 (E) 231216

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and pursuant to Council resolution 1987/21 and decision 2002/234, the Commission on the Status of Women elects its Bureau for a two-year period. At the 1st meeting of its sixtieth session, on 20 March 2015, the Commission elected Fatmaalzahraa Hassan Abdelaziz Abdelkawy (Egypt) as Vice-Chair for the sixtieth and sixty-first sessions. At the 1st meeting of its sixty-first session, on 24 March 2016, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil) as Chair and Jun Saito (Japan), Šejla Đurbuzović (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Andreas Glossner (Germany) as Vice-Chairs for the sixty-first session. At the same meeting, the Commission designated Ms. Đurbuzović as the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur of the Commission for its sixty-first session.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/16, the Commission appoints five of its members to serve a two-year term on the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women, established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. At the 1st meeting of its sixty-first session, the Commission appointed Belarus, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Liberia and Uruguay as members of the Working Group on Communications for the sixty-first session. In the absence of a nomination from the Western European and other States, the Commission had postponed the election of the remaining member of the Working Group on Communications to a later date, on the understanding that, upon endorsement by the Working Group, the endorsed member would be allowed to participate fully in the proceedings of the Working Group. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission will be called upon to appoint the remaining member of the Working Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission, at the beginning of each session, shall adopt the agenda of that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2016/224.

Preparations for the sixty-first session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/6 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as informal briefings and consultations with delegations to consider the organization of work for the session.

Following past practice, statements delivered by representatives of delegations of members and observers of the Commission during general discussions shall be limited to 5 minutes, and statements made on behalf of groups of delegations to 10 minutes. It is also recommended that interventions from non-governmental

organizations on themes relevant to the session be integrated into the general discussion and the interactive expert panels, taking into consideration geographical balance.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

(i) Priority theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

(ii) Review theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;

In its resolution 2016/3, the Economic and Social Council decided that, at its sixty-first session, in 2017, the Commission would consider as its priority theme "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world or work" and also decided that it would consider as its review theme "Challenges and achievement in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls", in follow-up to the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-eighth session (see E/2014/27-E/CN.6/2014/15).

In its resolution 2015/6, the Council decided that the session of the Commission would include a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human rights and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the deliberations of the Commission, and that the segment would include ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices, as well as a general discussion on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The Council recommended that statements identify goals attained, achievements made and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges in relation to the priority theme and the review theme.

Also in its resolution 2015/6, the Council decided that the Commission would evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on a priority theme of a previous session, as its review theme, through an interactive dialogue that includes:

(a) Member States of different regions, on a voluntary basis, presenting their lessons learned, challenges and best practices that identify means for accelerated implementation through national and regional experiences;

(b) Ways to support and achieve accelerated implementation, including through addressing data gaps and challenges in the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data with regard to the theme, at the national, regional and global levels.

Ministerial segment

Further to consultations by the Chair, a series of ministerial round tables and other high-level interactive dialogues will be held during the sixty-first session of the Commission, in addition to the general discussion.

Interactive expert panels on the priority theme

The Commission will hold one interactive expert panel with the participation of experts from Governments, the United Nations system, civil society and other stakeholder groups that work on the priority theme.

Interactive dialogue on the review theme

The Commission will hold two interactive dialogues with voluntary presentations by Member States from different regions on the review theme, and one interactive expert panel on enhancing the availability and use of data and gender-related statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (E/CN.6/2017/3)

Discussion guide for the ministerial segment: note by the Secretariat (E/CN.6/2017/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (E/CN.6/2017/4)

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 2015/6, the Economic and Social Council determined that the Commission would, as necessary, continue to discuss emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men, that require timely consideration, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives is required, and with attention to relevant issues on the agenda of the Council, in particular its annual main theme, as applicable.

In the same resolution, the Council requested the Bureau of the Commission, prior to the session, to identify such an emerging issue, trend, focus area or new approach, in consultation with all Member States, through their regional groups, and taking into account inputs from other relevant stakeholders, for consideration by the Commission through an interactive dialogue.

In accordance with resolution 2015/6, the Bureau of the Commission, prior to the session, identified the "empowerment of indigenous women" as the focus area for the sixty-first session.

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

In accordance with paragraph 67 (c) of General Assembly resolution 64/289, the Commission will have before it the annual report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the normative aspects of the work of UN-Women and on its implementation of the policy guidance provided by the Commission.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2016/4 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its sixty-first session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Violence against women

In its resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (now UN-Women) in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for its information.

Documentation

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the Entity (E/CN.6/2017/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2017/6)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United

Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (A/HRC/35/3-E/CN.6/2017/7)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-third sessions (A/71/38)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2017/10)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members would be able to meet to enable the Secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that would be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission.

In its resolution 2009/16, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission, starting at its fifty-fourth session, should appoint the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for a two-year period.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2017/R.1 and Add.1)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council on resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council, for its consideration and action, as necessary.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1, the Economic and Social Council shall invite its subsidiary bodies and the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the Council's agreed theme.

The theme for the Council's 2017 session is "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges".

Documentation

Letter dated 15 November 2016 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2017/8)

Note by the Secretariat on the contribution by the Commission on the Status of Women to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (E/CN.6/2017/9)

6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its sixty-second session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its sixty-first session.

Annex

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-first session (2017)

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Albania	2019
Bangladesh	2018
Belarus	2017
Belgium	2019
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2019
Brazil	2020
Burkina Faso	2017
Colombia	2019
Congo	2018
Ecuador	2017
Egypt	2018
El Salvador	2018
Equatorial Guinea	2019
Eritrea	2020
Germany	2017
Ghana	2018
Guatemala	2020
Guyana	2018
India	2018
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2019
Israel	2017
Japan	2017
Kazakhstan	2018

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Kenya	2018
Kuwait	2020
Lesotho	2017
Liberia	2019
Liechtenstein	2019
Malawi	2019
Mongolia	2019
Nigeria	2020
Norway	2020
Pakistan	2017
Paraguay	2017
Qatar	2020
Republic of Korea	2018
Russian Federation	2020
Spain	2019
Switzerland	2017
Tajikistan	2018
Trinidad and Tobago	2020
Uganda	2017
United Republic of Tanzania	2018
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2020
Uruguay	2018